

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. (Corr 25X1)
SUBJECT Venereal Disease in the Soviet Army DATE DISTR. 26 August 1953
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PLACE ACQUIRED REFERENCES

25X1

SOURCE:

CORRECTION

An Information Report with the above heading, bearing the number 25X1 was issued on 7 May 1953.

It has been determined that the Naval Medical School was transferred to Krasnoyarsk ~~N56-02, E92-487~~, and not to Krasnoyar, in the fall of 1943. Krasnoyar should be changed to Krasnoyarsk in paragraph 2.a(1). ~~It occurs in paragraph 2.a(1), page 1.~~

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COUNTRY	USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	25X1A
SUBJECT	Venereal Disease in the Soviet Army	DATE DISTR.	7 May 1953	
25X1A		NO. OF PAGES	3	
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PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REFERENCES	[REDACTED]	

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1. I never heard of any directive or circular issued by the Medical Department of the War Ministry in Moscow or the Medical Department of GOFG setting an official army policy on VD. I am positive that no such directive or circular was in the file of the [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] if such a directive had ever been issued, it would certainly have been in this file.

2. Soviet Army policies on VD were determined first of all by local conditions. The attitude toward VD was not the same in Germany as in the Soviet Union.

- a. In the Soviet Union contraction of VD was considered a breach of discipline and, therefore, resulted in disciplinary punishment. In support of this fact, [REDACTED] two cases:

- (1) [REDACTED] a sergeant serving with the Officer Candidate School in Krasnoyarsk contracted syphilis. The man was immediately demoted to private and sent to the local army hospital for treatment.

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(2) [] a student of the Naval Aviation Technical School in Molotov contracted gonorrhea and was given 15 days in the guard-house. I know of other cases where military personnel in the USSR were punished for contracting VD, but I do not remember dates and locations. In both cases mentioned above, the disease was reported promptly for treatment, but this fact did not prevent punishment.

b. I think the general attitude, even now, of the Soviet population is that VD is a disgrace; therefore, the punishments imposed upon army personnel who contracted the disease should be considered more as a logical consequence of this general attitude than as a special army policy. The use of prophylactics in the Soviet Army was obligatory; violators who failed to comply with these rules were punished. At least, that was the official justification for the punishment imposed.

c. In Germany the situation in respect to VD was different. Female Soviet volunteers with the armed forces in Germany had to undergo quarterly medical checks in the army gynecological clinics. Therefore, the possibility of contraction of VD from Soviet female personnel was almost ruled out. That left only one way to contract VD, namely, from German women. Since fraternization was strictly forbidden, every VD case in the occupation army first of all indicated a flagrant breach of the non-fraternization policy and was considered indisputable evidence of such a breach. Since noncompliance with the anti-fraternization rules was considered a most serious violation of discipline, even when VD was not contracted, the punishment was always imposed, at least officially, for breach of anti-fraternization rules. It was very hard to say whether some part of the punishment was actually given because of the VD itself, or whether the entire punishment was given because of the violation of non-fraternization regulations. In point of fact, since personnel caught in violation of non-fraternization rules were almost always sent back to the USSR, it did not make any difference whether the VD was to any extent the cause of the punishment. However, I knew of a case where a private in an artillery regiment [] contracted gonorrhea in []

[] and reported promptly for treatment. Since it could not be definitely established whether he had contracted this disease from a German or a Soviet female, the man was treated in an army hospital and then given 20 days in the guard-house. Since fraternization could not be established in his case, the punishment was actually given for VD, although I do not know what was the official interpretation of the violation committed. I remember other cases of VD in units near [] where punishments were given; I do not know any details.

3. Treatment of VD cases, especially syphilis, was normally done in VD wards of army hospitals. Officers and sometimes EN who were on friendly terms with the unit's medical officer or medical assistant could get away with having private treatment at the unit's dispensary. No record of such a case would be made. Officers who by the nature of their duties could go out and visit German towns sometimes decided to apply to local German physicians and pay for the treatment.

a. Depending on local conditions, cases of gonorrhea in the Soviet Army in Germany were sometimes treated in unit dispensaries rather than in hospitals to avoid "washing dirty linen in public". Normal treatment consisted of five shots of penicillin of 40,000 units each, given within a 10-hour period. This treatment was the same at a unit dispensary as in an army hospital.

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- b. Syphilis was always treated in army hospitals. In the first stage it was treated by a series of penicillin shots and sulfa drugs over a period of several months. When this was completed, patients were returned to their units and normally sent back to the USSR, where they were advised to report weekly to local VD or general dispensaries for alternate shots of bismuth and of salvarsan or neo-salvarsan. I do not know any details covering this treatment.
4. I wish to emphasize that as far as I know there was no such thing as clear-cut, definite policy on VD in the Soviet Occupation Forces in Germany. There were no regulations prescribing punishment for VD and no directives saying that there would be no punishment when VD cases were reported promptly for treatment. Therefore, I believe it would be proper to assume that this matter is left strictly to the discretion of local commanders, who treat it as a disciplinary violation of the non-fraternization policy.

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